

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner characterized the application as containing the following inventions or groups of inventions:

1. Group I, consisting of claims 1, 2 and 7 drawn to a ballistic resistant armour.
2. Group II, consisting of claims 3 - 5, drawn to a method of producing armour.
3. Group III, consisting of claim 6, drawn to a method to control delamination.

As stated earlier in this Response, the Applicants have elected Group I, consisting of claims 1, 2 and 7. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement.

In the Office Action, the Examiner characterized Groups I, II and III as relating to different general inventive concepts. The Examiner considers that the armour apparatus defined by claims 1, 2 and 7 can be made by methods different than those set forth in the claims of Group II or Group III. Further, the Examiner considers the methods defined by the claims in Groups II and III to be distinct, in that Group II claims do not deal with the steps of controlling delamination, as does claim 6 of Group III.

With respect to Group II, and particularly claim 3, the Applicants have defined a method which includes steps involving a liquefied form of an elastomer monomer, and curing of a stack of prepegs. The Examiner has stated that different methods could be used, such as the use of powdered elastomer or trimming after curing. The Applicants question whether the use of a powdered elastomer or performing the trimming process after curing would actually consist of a materially different process.

With respect to Group III and claim 6, Applicants are requesting consideration by the Examiner as to whether the Examiner would consider claim 6 to be distinct if the claim was made dependent from claim 3.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Applicant has responded to all issues raised in the current Office Action. The Applicants believe that all claims in the application are patentable and should not be subject to restriction, pending consideration of claim 6 as a dependent claim. Should any questions arise in connection with the above, please contact Thomas L. Lockhart at the telephone number of 616/336-6000.

Respectfully submitted,

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